

BARNSLEY RURAL
SANITARY DISTRICT

Report

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

(M. T. SADLER, ESQ., M.D.)

FOR THE
Year ending December 31st, 1894.

Barnsley :
J. E. VERO, THE PRINTERY, MARKET STREET.

1895



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GENTLEMEN,



THE year ending December 31st, 1894, was much more rainy than its predecessor, indeed the rainfall was more than an inch above the average of the 25 preceding years. It was also more uniform in temperature, the summer having been cooler, and the last quarter milder than usual. The temperature of the earth at a depth of four feet reached 56° only between July 8th and August 19th. There was consequently less than the ordinary amount of Summer Diarrhœa, and Acute Lung diseases caused fewer deaths than usual. Measles also, which has often of late years been very fatal amongst young children, was almost entirely absent until the end of the year.

The result of all these favourable circumstances was, that each month I was able to report low death rates, and the year taken as a whole proves to have been one of the most healthy that I have ever had to deal with in my annual reports.

The total number of deaths registered in the Barnsley Rural District were 161, to which have to be added 5 in the Beckett Hospital and Workhouse Infirmary in Barnsley, amongst persons belonging to the district.

Of these 7 were from Scarlet Fever, 3 from Enteric or Typhoid Fever, 2 from Puerperal Septicæmia, 2 from Measles, 8 from Whooping Cough, and 6 from Diarrhœa; showing, as compared with 1893, a decrease of 21 in the last named disease, and 8 in Whooping Cough, an increase of 3 in Scarlet Fever, but little change in the other diseases, except that we have had no deaths from Smallpox or Diphtheria.

All the deaths from Enteric Fever and Measles, 6 of those from Whooping Cough, and 3 of those from Scarlet Fever were in Darfield, whilst 4 of those from Diarrhœa, and 3 of those from Scarlet Fever were in Royston.

In estimating the probable increase in the population of the district during the year, the main fact by which we have to be guided, is that 100 new houses were occupied in its course, and as practically there are none empty, it may be taken that the population has increased by about five times that number, and is now somewhere about 12,610.

As 537 Births were registered during the year, or at the rate of 42·58 per 1,000, which is above the average for England and Wales, it is probable that this estimate is not excessive. On this population the death-rate has been 13·16 per 1,000 persons living, an exceptionally low rate, especially for a population including so many of the Coal-mining class.

Of the Deaths, 86 or 51·8 per cent. were amongst children under 5 years of age, and 67 or 40·36 per cent. amongst infants under the age of 12 months, making an infantile death rate of 12·94 per cent. of the births registered. All these rates are decidedly lower than in the preceding year, indicating a lower rate of sickness and mortality amongst children than in 1893.

II.—Although the general sickness and mortality of the year was less than usual, there was a decided increase in the number of cases of Infectious Disease requiring attention.

In all, 136 Notifications were received under the Act, each of which was visited in order to ascertain the sanitary conditions under which it was placed, and to make what arrangements were possible to prevent a spread of the disease.

Fortunately Smallpox, which caused much anxiety in 1893, was only reported in two cases.

The first was that of a woman, who on January 5th, in a shop at Carlton, waited on three persons from a Canal Boat, who could not afterwards be traced, but one of whom seemed to be ailing.

On the 19th the eruption of Smallpox appeared, but the case was not notified until the 23rd, when she was at once removed to the Kendray Hospital.

During the four days she had been visited by twelve or fourteen people, who were all seen as soon as possible, and advised to submit to revaccination. The majority took that precaution and escaped the disease, of the two or three who refused, a char-woman who had been with the first patient on the

20th was found on February 7th to have Smallpox also; she, too, was at once removed to the Hospital and no more cases occurred.

Scarlet Fever on the other hand being a disease in which it is much more difficult to secure isolation in Hospital than in Smallpox, and against which no protection like vaccination is known, was a constant source of anxiety throughout the year, 106 cases having been reported, 67 in Darfield, 33 in Royston, 4 in Cudworth, and 2 in Carlton.

There had been several cases of this disease in Darfield and its neighbourhood towards the end of 1893, and as it was of a mild type many no doubt escaped notice altogether, and being mostly children attended school as usual. In no case could the parents be persuaded to allow their children to be taken to the Hospital, and the accommodation available for Scarlet Fever being small, for a great part of the year there was often not enough room even for those who were willing to avail themselves of it. We were consequently obliged to content ourselves with warning the schools against admitting children from infected houses, and parents against allowing their children to spread the infection amongst those of other families. It is, however, impossible to insure the proper carrying out of the necessary precautions in such a population as ours, even when the nature of the disease is known, and in many cases no doubt it was not known. The result was, that cases continued to be reported throughout the year, especially from February to the end of June.

There were four cases in Cudworth in January, the last of an outbreak which began in 1893, and

there were two in Carlton in January and April, but fortunately the disease did not spread in that township.

Royston, which has had no epidemic of Scarlet Fever for many years, and therefore must contain a large number of children not protected against it by a former attack, remained free until the middle of July, when six cases were reported almost at the same time scattered over the village, at both ends and in the middle, some of them having had the eruption a fortnight before showing that it had already gained a settlement in the place, probably from some unsuspected child attending school whilst desquamating.

The same difficulty was experienced as at Darfield in getting the patients removed to the Hospital, or securing proper isolation in any other way, and all through the latter half of the year cases continued to be reported in batches of three or four or more at a time, showing that, as a rule, medical aid was not sought until the whole family had become infected. Under such circumstances it is impossible to stamp out such a disease as Scarlet Fever, which can only be prevented from spreading by strictly isolating every case, especially those first occurring in a community.

The prejudice against removal to a Fever Hospital in Scarlet Fever is gradually wearing out amongst more enlightened communities, and every pains is being taken at the Kendray Hospital to make the patients as comfortable as possible, and as in Barnsley and Ardsley where it is better known, more and more patients show willingness to go to it,

there is every reason to believe that in the more distant townships also its advantages will soon be appreciated.

A new block of Wards for Scarlet Fever will shortly be ready for opening. Our staff of Nurses has been enlarged, and as parents learn how well their children are attended to there, more and more will be glad to save themselves and their neighbours from needless illness by sending there at once any case that may occur in their families.

Of Diphtheria there were but four cases in Darfield, Staincross, and Royston, all apparently slight and none fatal.

Erysipelas was notified in ten cases, in three of these there were sanitary defects requiring removal, but none of them proved fatal.

There was one case of Puerperal Fever in Royston, but none of Membranous Croup or Cholera. In one case at Darfield, where a child in a house where there were cases of Scarlet Fever died after a few hours vomiting followed by Diarrhœa, a suspicion of Cholera having been expressed, the Coroner ordered an inquest, and under his instructions I made an examination of the body, and sent certain portions to the Medical Officers of the Local Government Board for examination. They agreed with me in the opinion that there was no reason to suspect Cholera, and the verdict of the Coroner's inquest was in accordance with my opinion that this death was really from Scarlet Fever.

Enteric or Typhoid Fever was notified in 12 cases, of which seven were in Darfield, three in Royston, and two in Cudworth.

The two Cudworth cases were of a doubtful character, and were convalescent within a week. Of the Darfield cases, three were dead or dying when the notification was received, and one of the others was removed to the Kendray Hospital, as was also one of those in Royston, who was very ill in lodgings without anyone to attend to him properly.

Both these eventually recovered, which they probably would not have done at home, and by their removal the risk to other people was avoided.

In three of the cases at Darfield the Water supply was from Wells, samples from which were sent to the Public Analyst, who reported so unfavourably on them that it became our duty to insist on another supply being provided from the mains of the Dearne Valley Water Company.

Of diseases not under the Notification Act, Measles was very prevalent in Darfield in December, and Whooping Cough in the same township during February and April. There were also some cases both there and in Woolley in August. Of Summer Diarrhœa there was practically no epidemic prevalence.

III.—Besides the enquiries needed in consequence of reports of infectious disease, systematic inspections by myself and your inspectors have been made as usual of all the different townships in the district during the year, and the results reported at your monthly meetings.

In consequence of defects thus discovered, besides many verbal warnings, 114 Notices have been given for the abatement of nuisances. During the year 112 were abated, there were 9 in hand at the close of 1893, and 11 were pending at the end of 1894.

In 36 cases the Authority was asked to sanction the taking of legal proceedings, but only in three were such proceedings actually required, one for over-crowding, and two to close dangerous Wells. During the year 22 Sinks were disconnected from the Sewers and provided with trapped Gullies, and 26 Privies were rebuilt on an improved plan.

During the year 53 plans for 109 new houses, and three alteration of houses were presented to you after examination by myself, your Surveyor, and the Parochial Committees. Of these, nine were rejected as in some way defective from a sanitary point of view.

Particular attention has been paid to Wells used for drinking purposes, and in 17 cases where there seemed reason to suspect contamination, samples were taken and sent to the Public Analyst. Of these, eight were in Darfield, seven in Royston, one was from Cudworth, and one from Billingley.

In his reports, twelve were absolutely condemned as quite unfit for drinking, one was pronounced to be unsafe, three suspicious, and one as needing to be watched. None were thoroughly satisfactory.

In all the cases where the water was absolutely condemned, steps were taken to procure a better supply, and in seven cases this has already been done. In two cases legal proceedings were taken, and orders made by the magistrates that the Wells should be closed. One of these was in Royston, and one in Darfield.

Amongst other things not mentioned above which I had to report to you during the year, were defective Scavenging at Cudworth in March and August ; deficient Water Supply at Wind Hill, Woolley, in

May and August, at Hood Green, Stainbro', in May, and at Billingley in July; defective Drainage and houses unhealthy from damp at Stainbro' in September, and in July an improperly made junction of the drain from certain new Flushing Closets at the School at Darfield with the Main Sewer.

In May I had to report that at the request of the Darfield Parochial Committee, the County Medical Officer had inspected certain damp houses mentioned at page 10 of my Report for 1893, and on pages 11 and 12 of that for 1892.

Dr. Whitelegge agreed with me that they were cases for negotiation with the owner, and persuasion rather than for legal proceedings, and since then Mr. Bushby, at any rate, has done what was desired, removed the earth from the back of his cottages, and connected them with the Main Sewer, not, however, until a new difficulty had arisen from an objection being made to lowering the Main Sewer sufficient to admit of a junction with the house drain. By your instructions however this was done.

IV.—So far as the prevalence of Infectious Diseases was concerned, with the exception of a certain amount of Scarlet Fever, fortunately of a mild type in most cases, at Royston, and of Measles in Darfield, the sanitary condition of this district at the end of the year was satisfactory.

In the matter of Water Supply, the only addition has been an extension of 150 yards of Water Mains at Royston, but arrangements are now nearly complete for the supply of Hood Green, Stainbro', and the Parochial Committee at Cudworth has agreed to the extension of the Mains to the out-

lying parts of their township. Nothing has yet been done for Wind Hill, Woolley, which as I have often had to report is most inadequately supplied.

The supply at Billingley also, which is entirely from Wells, is inadequate in quantity in dry weather, and has been pronounced by the Public Analyst as "not thoroughly satisfactory" in quality.

Cudworth and Royston may be considered to have within reach, if not yet laid on to every house, a supply from Ingbirchworth satisfactory in quality and ample in quantity.

Darfield has the hard but safe enough water of the Dearne Valley Company, but too many houses are still dependent on Wells.

Carlton has for the great bulk of its population, a safe but not quite satisfactory supply from Lord Wharncliffe's Waterworks. Some steps have already been taken towards obtaining a supply from Ingbirchworth or Penistone, and probably the new Parish Council will support this Authority in attempting something, more especially as there is a prospect of houses being built along the Wakefield Road, which will require a proper Water Supply before they can be occupied.

There has been no change in the system of Scavenging. Darfield is the only township where contractors are employed, and there the work has been done fairly well during the year. In the rest of the district the Ashpits are emptied by the owners of property, with results often far from satisfactory, one difficulty being the want of some place in Cudworth and also in Carlton to which the refuse can

be taken when the farmers cannot do with it on their land. At Royston also the want of a more satisfactory system is felt more and more each year as the population increases. In the matter of sewerage and sewage disposal, great advances have been made during the year by the completion of the works for those purposes at Royston.

At Darfield, Cudworth, and Carlton, where sewage disposal rather than sewerage is needed, the sewers being fairly complete, plans for this purpose have been prepared and approved by the Authority, but for one reason or other nothing definite has yet been done, partly perhaps from a feeling that it would be better to let the new Authorities, constituted under the Local Government Act, have a voice in the final decision.

No offensive trades are carried on in the district. There are no common lodging houses, and only two or three unimportant places coming under the Factory or Workshops Act. These last have been inspected, but no special action has been needed.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

MICHAEL THOS. SADLER,

(*M.D., Lond.*)

Medical Officer of Health.

Barnsley,

Feb. 6th, 1895.

AREA OF DISTRICT—14,591 AC

A TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year classified according to Diseases, A

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; pub- lic institutions being shown as separate localities.	Mortality from all causes, at subjoined ages.							
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.	
DARFIELD	55	27	7	3	2	10	6	Un- 5 u
BILLINGLEY	5	..	1	1	..	2	1	Un- 5 u
CUDWORTH	15	8	..	2	..	2	3	Un- 5 u
CARLTON	19	9	..	3	1	3	3	Un- 5 u
ROYSTON	44	13	10	7	2	9	3	Un- 5 u
NOTTON	4	2	..	1	..	1	..	Un- 5 u
WOOLLEY	12	5	..	..	..	3	4	Un- 5 u
STAINBRO'	7	3	1	..	..	1	2	Un- 5 u
TOTALS	161	67	19	17	5	31	22	Un- 5 u

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken in

Deaths occurring outside the district among per- sons belonging thereto.	5	..	..	..	..	1	4	Un- 5 u
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Un- 5 u

Death-rates } General, 13
 } Infant, 124

POPULATION 1891—10,912.

in the BARNSLEY RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT,
and Localities.

ality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children
under Five Years of Age.

Scarlatina.	FEVERS.		Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	TOTAL
	Enteric or Typhoid.	Puerperal.									
..	..	..	2	6	1	1	3	..	..	21	34
S 3	3	..	..	..	.	.	1	1	2	11	21
..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
S ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	1	4
..	..	..	..	..	1	..	5	..	..	2	8
S 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	..	1	7
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	8	9
S ..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	1	6	10
..	2	..	..	..	4	2	4	..	1	10	23
S 1	..	1	..	..	..	9	3	5	..	2	21
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
S ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2
..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	2	5
S ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	4	7
..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	1	4
S ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	3
..	2	..	2	8	6	5	16	..	2	45	86
S 5	3	2	..	.	..	11	10	14	5	25	75

count in judging of the above records of mortality.

..
S ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	2	5
..
S ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

1000 estimated Population.
1000 Births registered.

B TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS, FROM INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the notice of the Health, during the year 1894, in the district, classified according to Diseases, &c.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of the Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	Population at all Ages.		Registered Births.	Age under 5 years or over.
	Census, 1891	Estimated to middle of 1894.		
DARFIELD ..	3416	3710	165	Under 5 upwards
BILLINGLEY ..	195	210		Under 5 upwards
CUDWORTH ..	1607	1870	355	Under 5 upwards
CARLTON ..	1401	1830		Under 5 upwards
ROYSTON ..	2613	3290		Under 5 upwards
NOTTON ..	269	280		Under 5 upwards
WOOLLEY ..	969	970		Under 5 upwards
STAINBRO' ..	442	450	17	Under 5 upwards
TOTALS..	10912	12610	537	Under 5 upwards

Notification of Infectious Diseases compulsory. Isolation Hospital, the Kendray Hospital, the

S, and of NEW CASES OF INFEC-
knowledge of the Medical Officer of
BARNSELY RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT;
S, and Localities.

New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.						Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.	
Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	FEVERS.		Erysipelas.	Small- pox.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.
			Enteric or Typhoid.	Puerperal.			
..	31	1	..	..	..	..	..
..	36	1	7	..	6	..	1
..
..
..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..
..
..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..
..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	24	1	4	1	..	2	1
..
..
..
..
..
..	..	1	..	..	2	..	..
..	44	1	..	..	..	..	.
2	62	3	13	1	10	2	2

the District since January 1st, 1890
fectious Diseases, at Ardsley.

BARNSLEY UNION

RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

EXTRACT FROM

Report

OF

M. T. SADLER, Esq., M.D.

Medical Officer of Health,

DECEMBER 12TH, 1894.

BARNSLEY :

J. E. VERO, THE PRINTERY, MARKET STREET.

BARNSLEY UNION
RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

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Extract from Report of Medical Officer

TO LAST MEETING OF

RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY,

DECEMBER 12TH, 1894.



S this is probably the last meeting of the Barnsley Union Rural Sanitary Authority, at least under its present name, I may perhaps be allowed briefly to refer to the work done by it during the 21 years during which it has existed.

When, in 1873, I was appointed your medical officer, there was throughout the district, then larger in extent, but not much larger in population, than it now is, no proper system of sewerage—the stone drains then in existence serving rather to pollute the soil than to carry the sewage away,—no supply of water beyond that afforded by wells, always liable to pollution and getting more and more inadequate, so far as quantity was concerned, for the supply of

the wants of the district. There was no systematic removal of refuse, the ashpits were continually full, and they and the privies with which they were connected were of the worst possible construction and a constant danger to health. There was no inspector, and no one to see that nuisances obviously dangerous to health were removed; there was no enquiry into preventible causes of sickness and death; no attempt made to prevent the spread of infectious diseases; and of course, no hospital in which such cases could be isolated.

I need not add that no attempt was made to avoid the pollution of water-courses, rivers, and ditches by sewage.

Houses were built anywhere, and in any order, without any attempt being made to see that they were likely to be fit for habitation, or that any means were provided for getting rid of their sewage, or guarding against dampness,—the walls might be as thin as the builder liked to make them, and the sanitary provision generally as imperfect as he chose to make it. Of course, the result of this was a great amount of unnecessary sickness and a high rate of mortality.

What the figures were before my appointment, I have no means of ascertaining, but the deaths in 1874 were at the rate of 26.85 per 1,000, whereas last year they were 16.43 per 1,000.

The rate soon began to fall, but the average for the first three years was 24.39 per thousand, and for the last three 18.14.

This fall in the mortality of more than 6 per thousand, of course indicates a still greater diminution in the amount of illness, and the suffering, and cost arising from illness, and has been mainly brought about by an improvement in the sanitary condition under which the inhabitants of the district have to live.

I will not take up your time by any attempt at a detailed account of the work done by and under your authority, in order to bring about this improvement, but will simply state the main features, in which the sanitary conditions of the townships, which are or have been under this authority, have been improved under your rule.

In the first place, a system of properly constructed pipe sewers has been provided everywhere (with comparatively unimportant exceptions), and these sewers have been connected with the house drains, and the house drains properly disconnected from the interior of the houses. A supply of safe water has been provided, either directly by the authority, or by private companies, or individuals throughout the district, with again certain limited and temporary exceptions. The removal of refuse, and the emptying of ashpits has been provided for throughout, either by a system of contractors, or by the supervision of inspectors.

The whole of the district is regularly inspected, to see that nuisances injurious to health are removed with the least possible delay.

All cases of infectious disease are carefully enquired into, and all practical steps taken to prevent them from infecting other persons.

Your Authority was the first in the Union to set the example of adopting the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, and to make a real effort to put the information gained to practical use.

Your Authority, also—when the outbreak of small-pox at Sheffield seemed likely to spread into this district—by entering into an agreement with the Corporation of Barnsley for a joint hospital for the isolation of cases of that disease, stirred up other Sanitary Authorities to follow your example, and not only saved the district from what would otherwise have been a serious epidemic, but prepared the way for that common action by which the whole of the Barnsley Union is now provided with the means of isolating not only Small-pox, but other Infectious Diseases in the Kendray Hospital.

By the adoption of Building Bye-laws, and the careful inspection of all plans, not only from a surveyor's, but also from a medical point of view, you have secured that the vast number of houses that have been built in the district during the last few years, shall in construction, and position, not be a danger to health, and that they shall be provided with the needful means of getting rid of hurtful refuse.

The disposal of sewage has been a more difficult matter, and in no direction have your efforts to

effect an improvement met with more opposition, but thanks to them, and to the County Council, plans have been prepared for every important township, and Royston, at any rate, will soon have its works completed.

Not only have you effected these improvements in your district, besides others on which I have no time to dwell, but I think that you may fairly claim to have roused in many an interest in sanitary matters which did not previously exist, and stimulated other Sanitary Authorities to attempt similar progress; and in any case you may fairly challenge comparison, so far as sanitary appliances and administration are concerned, with neighbouring sanitary districts administered under systems perhaps more popular, but certainly more costly than your own.

Under the system—which next year comes into operation—of popularly elected Parish Councils and District Councillors, taking the place of nominated Parochial Committees and Guardians elected in the old fashion, no man can complain that he has not an equal chance with his neighbour of having his wants and wishes attended to; and therefore the new Authorities ought to act with greater confidence and promptitude, as more certain of representing the wishes of their constituents. There is plenty of work for them to do, but in sanitary matters they can only build on the foundations which you have laid, and if, when they come of age they can show as good progress made as you can point to at the

end of your 21 years of authority, they will deserve, and I hope receive, the hearty thanks of those for whom they have laboured.

I am, yours obediently,

MICHAEL THOS. SADLER,

M.D. (Lond.)

Medical Officer of Health.

To

The Barnsley Union Sanitary Authority.



